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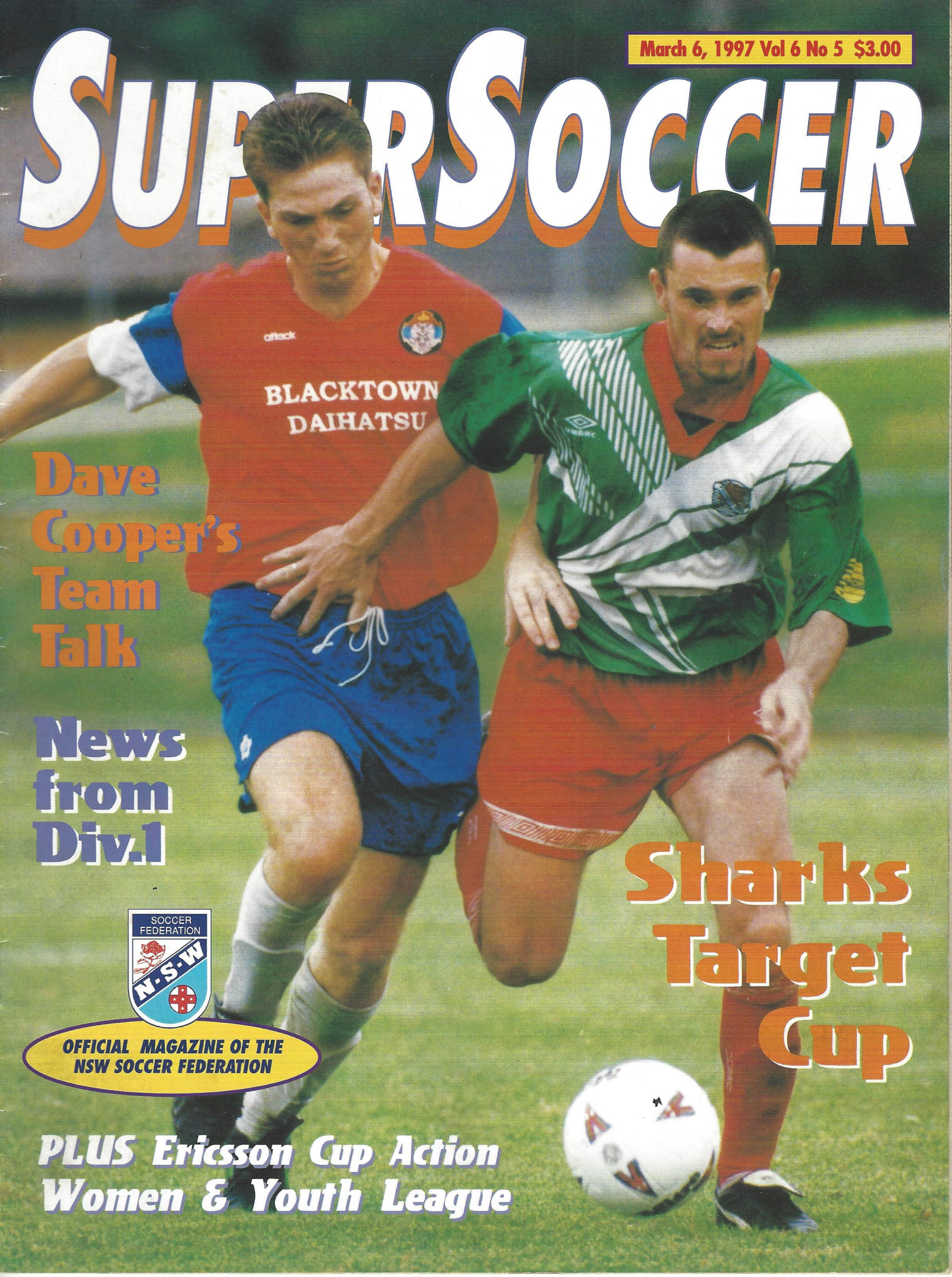

Dave Cooper's Team Talk

News from Div.1

Sharks Target Cup

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FRONT COVER: Adamstown and Bonnyrigg battle for possession at Gabbie Stadium. ABOVE: Adamstown defender Rocco de Grandis attempts to clear from Bonnyrigg's James Warburton.

Editorial

The Sutherland Sharks have clearly stamped their authority in the southern half of the Super League pre-season cup competition.

Peter Terry's men from Sydney's south have one foot in door to making the final, with only the often inconsistent Canterbury-Marrickville standing in their path.

While Terry's squad boasts a fine finisher and target man in Grant Bard, he has had several sleepless nights searching for a recognised goalkeeper.

It was never more evident than last weekend when Terry was forced to switch veteran striker Stuart Porter to fill-in as a temporary custodian.

But given the early good form of Bard and Harry Chritodulou, Canterbury will be hard-pressed to get on level terms with the Sharks this weekend.

In the northern group, Allan Bourke's Central Coast outfit continues to go from strength to strength.

But the Coasties face their biggest test to date when they go up against the Blacktown City Demons this weekend.

Bourke will again look to his midfield to provide the necessary service to the in-form striker Nathan Byrn.

Byrn, with six goals to his name, has largely been responsible for the excellent form the Coasties have displayed in the pre-season.

Another factor in the Coasties' rise has been the influence off the field of former Socceroo goalkeeper Terry Greedy.

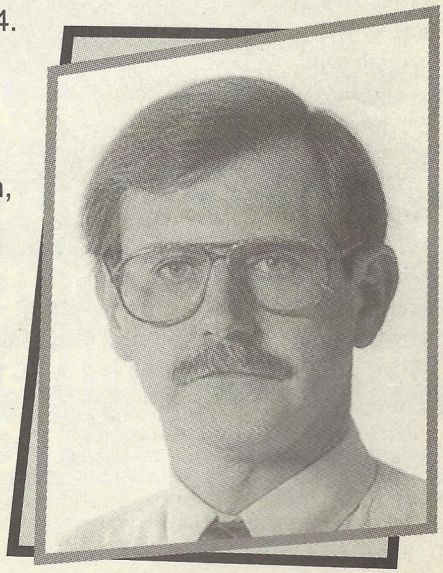
Greedy's input as goalkeeping coach clearly can't be measured in dollar terms alone.

Looking a little further afield, a healthy 3,000-plus crowd was on hand at Carrington Park, Bathurst at the weekend to cheer on the Matildas against the highly-credentialled visiting Team USA.

While the young Australians, jointly coached by Greg Brown and Jeff Olver, again finished on the wrong side of the ledger, the gap in standard between the two countries is clearly narrowing.

One for the diary, the NSW Soccer Federation kicks-off the season proper with its official launch at the Sharks International club next Friday, March 14.

On what the teams have shown in the Cup competition, 1997 is shaping up as a boom season.



PETER KOGOY
Editor

SOCCER NSW, SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION is organising a package tour to Malaysia and Japan for U12 - U16 boys and girls teams.

The tour would be during the September/October school holidays, approximate cost $2100 - $2400 per person which includes air-fares, hotel accommodation, sightseeing in Malaysia and Japan (Disneyland), transfers etc.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION ON (02) 9629 1800.

Blacktown's Damien Foxe is surrounded by Parramtta players at Gabbie Stadium

The Road to the Cup Final

Dave Cooper looks at Round 5

DEMONS AND EAGLES IN A THRILLER

The action was fast and furious as Blacktown City and the Parramatta Eagles fought out a thrilling 2-2 draw in Round 4 action at the Gabbie Stadium.

A controversial penalty in the opening minute, an injury to referee Alex Spiroski, a near hour long opening half and a stirring second half fightback had the good crowd in high voice through to the end.

The draw kept the Demons alive however for the Eagles their chances of making the Pre-Season Cup final were dashed by the Demons two second half goals.

The Demons now have to beat Central Coast in next weeks game in order to advance to the final.

The match itself sprung to life after only 28 seconds, when a great ball from Stephane Jee enabled Sasha Petrovski to get in behind the defence. As he moved forward towards the goal, Damien Foxe make a tackle which seemed to collect the ball but also sent Petrovski sprawling to the ground, Spiroski pointing to the spot much to the angst of the Demons players.

Karavatakis made no mistake from the spot for his ninth of the pre-season.

Six minutes later Spiroski went to the ground, limping off with a torn calf muscle and Greg Leverton having to take over in the middle.

Both sides played with endeavour but scoring chances were few until the 40th minute when Christian Ortiz put Petrovski away and beautifully guided his shot over the diving Fernando Greco for a 2-0 lead.

Blacktown were obviously given a stern talking to at the break as they came out fired up, needing at least a draw to stay alive.

Four minutes into the half a well worked move saw Jay Anderson's header palmed away by Eagles keeper Jason Holmes, with Ivo De Jesus pouncing on the rebound to head home from close range.

Eight minutes later they were level when Dean Harding layed off a terrific ball behind the defence for Stuart Cleary to run onto and poke home.

ADAMSTOWN BLOW IT

Adamstown Rosebud blew a golden opportunity to get their first points of the pre-season, losing 1-0 to a 10 men Bonnyrigg White Eagles side.

However Bonnyrigg's commitment to continued attack was outstanding and they thoroughly deserved the points against a very disappointing Adamstown side that rarely threatened the Bonnyrigg goal.

Eagles keeper Mladen Kos inexplicably handled a long through ball outside his box in the 16th minute, resulting in Greg Leverton giving him his marching orders. From the free kick, Adamstown had their best chance to score with Adam Sanderson seeing his fierce shot hit the crossbar.

Bonnyrigg never let up and were rewarded for their attacking enterprise when Javier Mancino scored with a low hard shot a minute before the break.

Bonnyrigg should have extended that lead in the 81st minute but Mirko Ninkovic's penalty kick was kept out by Adamstown debutant keeper Darren Moore.

COASTIES IN CONTROL

Central Coast went a step closer to contesting the Pre-Season Cup final with a convincing but hard fought 2-0 win over an improving Sydney United.

Right from the start it was the Coasties who were in control and should have been in the lead in the 5th minute but Matthew Heighway skyed his shot over the bar from close range. Two minutes later they did go ahead when Nathan Byrn capitalised in a defensive mix up to tuck home nicely.

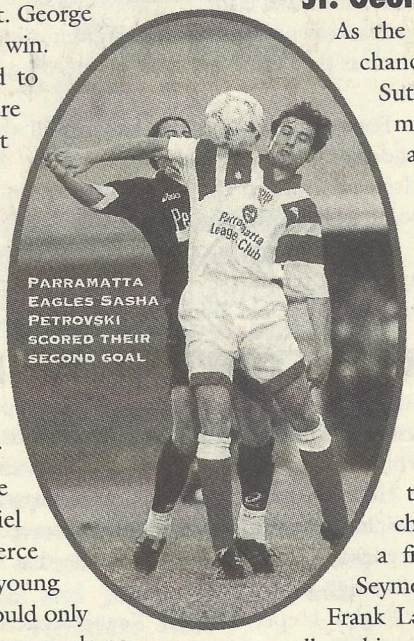
The Coasties went two up in the 63rd minute thanks to a penalty kick by Damien Brown after Heighway was brought down in the box.

They only need a draw against closest rivals Blacktown to secure a place in the final.

WILLIAMS DENIES SAINTS VICTORY

Eric Williams, Leichhardt's major off-season recruit, scored his first goal for the club to deny St. George Saints a much needed win.

St. George needed to win to keep the pressure on Sutherland but Williams struck home a cracking shot from 10 metres out to even the game up at one apiece, where it remained until the end.



PARRAMATTA EAGLES SASHA PETROVSKI SCORED THEIR SECOND GOAL

St. George had taken the lead a minute before half time, when teenage striker Daniel Cummins hit a fierce shot which Tigers young keeper Ante Covic could only palm away. Vince Savoca made no mistake when he cracked the rebound home.

Both sides had a couple of chances to snatch a winner, Cummins probably the best chance but Covic was able to save his well struck shot at the near post.

BANKSTOWN WIN THRILLER

With neither Bankstown City or Canterbury Marrickville playing for a place in the final, it was a case of go all out in a thrilling final match at St. George Stadium.

In the end, it was Bankstown's new overseas import Bobby Zafirov who broke the dealock with a winner 10 minutes from time for a final score of 3-2.

It was end to end football especially in the second half with both sides having numerous opportunities to win the game.

Canterbury hit the front after only seven minutes through a good run by Steve Christoforidis but Bankstown scored twice in the dying minutes of the half, firstly from Tony Velevski and then Tony Josevski right on the half time whistle.

Canterbury substitute George Kategiannis levelled things up in the 70th minute to set up thrilling finish and it was Zafirov who produced the winner.

PRE-SEASON CUP ROUND FOUR PREVIEWS

Macarthur Rams vs St. George Saints

As the only side that have a chance of catching Sutherland, St. George must go all out attack against the Rams. Behind on goal difference (4) the Saints have to win well and hope that the Sharks lose to Canterbury later that night for what would be the shock of the season. Who would have expected it would be the Saints that would challenge the Sharks after a first round drubbing at Seymour Shaw Park. Coach Frank Lang had little option to call on his youngsters and they have performed very admirably for him. The Rams will not make it easy for them and they will be out to win at least one game of the pre-season (not counting the Bankstown game). They have also performed very well and have been unlucky not to have won properly already. Gave the Sharks a fright last week and if the Saints do go out all attack we could expect a few goals in this one.

Bankstown City Lions vs Leichhardt Tigers

Bankstown have had a pretty miserable time of the pre-season but returned to form with a narrow win over Canterbury last week. They will not be keen to finish bottom of the Southern Group and should be focused for this game.

They have a good allround team but their form can be very erratic at times. Coach David Mijalkov would have been pleased to see the goals go in, for that is one area he concerned about for the coming season.

Leichhardt have been a big disappointment and coach Tony Pezzano knows it. Now out of the running in the pre-season, Pezzano will be hoping his players can relax and play some football. With a number of players vying for contracts the performances to date have been below par but Pezzano knows if he can put his top side on the park they will do the job.

Goalscoring has been the biggest problem to date despite having two of the best strikers around in Eric Williams and John Buonavoglia.

Sutherland Sharks vs Canterbury Marrickville

How this match pans out could well depend on how St. George fairs in the early match against Macarthur. If the Saints do get the three points expect a determined Sharks to go out onto the field but if they don't get a win, expect a relaxed Sharks on the park.

The one problem for Sutherland is goalkeeping with striker Stuart Porter going between the sticks last week. Scott Preston and Paul Henderson are both out for a while and coach Peter Terry is earnestly searching for a replacement.

It is hard to gauge Canterbury's form with a number of their matches high scoring affairs. They have nothing to lose in this match and should go out with a carefree attitude and try a few positive things.

If they do, we could see another high scoring game which will keep the fans happy. They also will not want to finish bottom and will make it as tough as possible for Sutherland but the Sharks should get home.

Blacktown City Demons vs Central Coast

Blacktown's thrilling second half comeback has set up a thrilling finish to the Northern Group. The Demons two points behind the Coasties must win and a tantalising game is sure to ensue. Central Coast know a draw will be good enough so they will be playing it fairly tight but Blacktown will have to pull out all stocks.

The Demons might also be hampered by suspensions after receiving five yellow cards against Parramatta, while Sarkis Boudaher is doubtful due to injury.

They will have Ashton back but with Coasties at full strength they will be up against it. The Coasties will not play too conservatively but will be dangerous especially on the break.

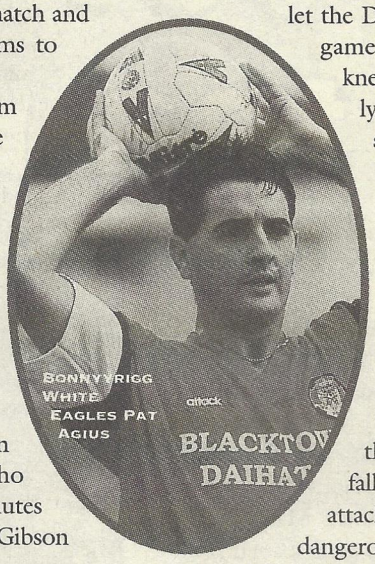
A spot in the final will be a big boost for soccer on the Central Coast and you can be sure they will have support at Melita Stadium urging them on.

Sydney United vs Adamstown Rosebud

The other games in the Northern Group pale into insignificance but this game does have some attraction in the battle for the wooden spoon. Neither side has taken a point in the competition so far and would dearly like to finish on a high note. Sydney United have been improving with every game despite looking a little out of their depth at times. Are fighting very hard in each match and are making it hard for teams to get a result.

Their biggest problem however is cracking the opposition defence and with only one goal, need to step up a gear when going forward. Adamstown are still struggling to get a full side on the park with injuries keeping a number of players on the sidelines.

They should have beaten a depleted Bonnyrigg who were a man short for 74 minutes but hardly threatened Mike Gibson in Bonnyrigg's goal.



Parramatta Eagles vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles

This game will only have token interest for both sides as they look for a satisfactory end to the pre-season. The Eagles would be somewhat aggrieved that they let a two goal lead slip away, especially when a win was needed to keep alive in the competition. Looked very good in the first half against Blacktown but let the Demons back into the game and before they knew it they were quickly level. Bonnyrigg showed tremendous character to beat Adamstown with ten men for the majority of the game.

After keeper Mladen Kos was sent off early, you would be excused for thinking they would fall away but they kept attacking and looked very dangerous on the break. Will not make it an easy game for Parramatta and have a very able replacement for Kos in Mike Gibson.

Don't be surprised if an upset may occur.

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ZONE 4 Macarthur, Southern Districts Soccer Assoc. MANAGER Trevor Morgan 9890 2915 or 014 843 709

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Super League team talk

A strange thing happened on the weekend when known goalscorer Stuart Porter was thrust into the position to prevent them. With Paul Henderson diagnosed with a fractured hand after a collision with Eric Williams several weeks ago, Sutherland had no replacement keeper for their game against Macarthur. Porter volunteered to go between the sticks and did an admirable job.

Adamstown's bad news to the pre-season continues after captain David Bock suffered ankle ligament damage at training. The injury is likely to keep him out for several weeks, missing vital matches in the lead up to the season.

Adamstown have signed local goalkeeper Darren Moore for the 1997 season. Moore made an impressive debut against Bonnyrigg, saving a second half spot kick.

Sydney United have signed Anthony Driene from Illawarra Lions. Needing players with Super League experience, Driene will fit nicely into the backline.

St. George have signed goalkeeper Robert Graskoski from Illawarra Lions. Graskoski was unable to command a regular spot last season with Steven Angelov in goal but the lanky keeper sees his chances of a first team spot best served at the Saints.

Never give a sucker an even break! Mladen Kos, Bonnyrigg's young keeper was doing a good job in keeping the very experienced Mike Gibson on the sidelines but his bizarre sending off against Adamstown on the weekend has given Gibson an opportunity to secure a permanent spot. And Gibson will not be easy to displace as he would have to be one of the best in the business.

MAIN PIC: BONNYRIGG'S NEW GOALKEEPER SIGNING... MIKE GIBSON
INSET: PARRAMATTA MIDFIELDER CHRISTIAN ORTIZ

Super League

pre-season draw

ROUND 5 March 8-9

SOUTHERN GROUP

Macarthur Rams v St George Saints	Sunday	Seymour Shaw Park	3pm
Bankstown City Lions v Leichhardt Tigers	Sunday	Seymour Shaw Park	5pm
Sutherland Sharks v Canterbury M/Ville	Sunday	Seymour Shaw Park	7pm

NORTHERN GROUP

Black. City Demons v Central Coast	Saturday	Melita Stadium	3pm
Sydney United v Adamstown Rosebud	Saturday	Melita Stadium	5pm
Parramatta Eagles v Bonnyrigg W.E.	Saturday	Melita Stadium	7pm

FINAL - MARCH 16, 1997

Winner (Southern) v Winner (Northern)	Sunday	Gabbie Stadium	5pm

SPECIALISED GOALKEEPERS COURSE 1997

Limited positions are available for a 3 day live-in specialised goalkeeping camp at Valentine Sports Park. The camp will be staffed by fully qualified ex-international goalkeepers using a newly structured goalkeeping course. Places are limited to 24 players and the ratio of goalkeepers to coach will be strictly limited to 8 to 1. The camp will run from 1pm on Tuesday 1 April to after lunch on Friday 4 April, 1997. Included in the camp will be accommodation, meals and specialised coaching at a cost of $250.00 per player.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT JOHN HEDISON OR KERRIE THORNE • SOCCER NSW • SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION ON (02) 9629 1800

Round Five

Super

Kick Off 3.00pm

Blacktown City Demons *Vs* Central Coast

Melita Stadium
Saturday March 8th

Team Colours
Black Shirts
Black Shorts
Black Socks

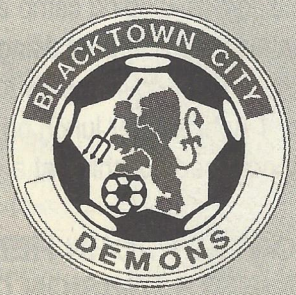
Fernando Greco - 1
Jeff Doyle - 2
Steve Hickman - 3
Damon Langan - 4
Damien Foxe - 5
Jeff Suzor - 6
Ivo De Jesus - 7
Steve Berry - 8
Stuart Cleary - 9
Sarkis Boudaher - 10
Dean Harding - 11
Jay Anderson - 12
Glen Geppart - 13
Scott Ashton - 14
Goran Vulic - 15
David Morgans - 20

Coach - Bob Daley

1 - David Fitzsimmons
2 - Phil Moss
3 - Darren Northam
4 - Mark Drysdale
5 - Ben Lovie
7 - Andrew Clark
8 - Craig Thompson
9 - Matthew Heighway
10 - Paul Roberts
12 - Jason Huxley
14 - Kevin Schneider
15 - Nathan Byrn
16 - Shane Knight
17 - Damien Brown
18 - Justin Norman
19 - Adam Mark
20 - Shane Woodhouse

Team Colours
White Shirts
White Shorts
White Socks

Coach - Allan Bourke



League

Kick Off 5.00pm

Sydney United *Vs* Adamstown Rosebud

Melita Stadium
Saturday March 8th

Team Colours
Red Shirts
White Shorts
Blue Socks

Coach - John Doyle

Sean Cahill - 1	1 - Martin Smith
Dorin Karpes - 2	2 - Cameron Hudson
Chad Karpes - 3	3 - Sean Matthews
Ben Fairley - 4	4 - Rocco De Grandis
Anthony Tesoro - 5	5 - Adam Sanderson
Larry Mullen - 6	6 - Matt Parker
George Saad - 8	7 - Benn Lane
Dominic Usalj - 9	8 - Josh Ferguson
Steve Zoric - 10	9 - Scott Harrison
Ante Peric - 11	10 - David Bock
Terry Sperber - 12	11 - Matt Nolan
Scott Tozer - 13	12 - Chris Beacher
Fabian Screpis - 14	13 - Heath Timmins
Zan Kukucka - 15	22 - Darren Moore
John Cannuli - 16	
Zia Younan - 17	
Marco Zammarrelli - 18	

Team Colours
Green Shirts
Red Shorts
Red Socks

Coach - Graham Jennings

Round Five

Super

Kick Off 7.00pm

Parramatta Eagles *Vs* Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Melita Stadium
Saturday March 8th

Team Colours
White Shirts
White Shorts
White Socks

Coach - Doug Utjesenovic

Jason Holmes - 1	1 - Mladen Kos
George Souris - 2	2 - Pat Agius
Mark Reveley - 3	3 - David Petrovic
David Huxley - 4	4 - Alen Stajcic
Stephane Jee - 5	5 - Johnny Ghisso
Tony Danaskos - 6	6 - Javier Mancino
David Harding - 7	8 - Johnny Cam
Malcolm Meilak - 8	9 - Mirko Ninkovic
Scott Gilbert - 9	10 - Robert Sacco
Christian Ortiz - 10	11 - Paul Richardson
Geoff Gunning - 11	12 - Milan Gajic
Sasha Utjesenovic - 12	13 - Dragan Novakovic
Steve Karavatakis - 13	14 - Daniel Crowden
Saso Petrovski - 14	15 - James Galea
Mauricio Islas - 15	16 - Adriano Maiorca
Kire Josevski - 16	17 - Stefan Janic
Barry Smith - 20	18 - James Warburton
	20 - Mike Gibson

Team Colours
Red Shirts
Blue Shorts
White Socks

Coach - John Turner

League

Kick Off 3.00pm

Macarthur Rams *Vs* St George Saints

Seymour Shaw Park
Sunday March 9th

Team Colours
Maroon & Grey Shirts
Maroon Shorts
Maroon Socks

Coach - Hugh McCrory

David Hayes - 1
Ben Wright - 2
Steve Sweeney - 3
Steven Lord - 4
Scott Houghton - 5
Gerald Gonthier - 6
David Reid - 7
Eddie Clune - 8
Rodrigo Pena - 9
Simon Fedele - 10
Troy Shipley - 11
Ben Green - 12
Greg Thomas - 14
Warren Hayward - 15
Adrian Macerola - 16
Alan Lindley - 18

1 - Jose Bello Amigo
2 - Matthew O'Shea
3 - Stephen Scotti
4 - Phil Treharne
5 - Paul Carter
6 - Leon Dauzacker
15 - James Magiasis
7 - John Pillemer
11 - Christian Martinez
9 - Damiel Cummins
10 - Vince Savoca
8 - Daniel Totaro
12 - Michael Grbevski
13 - Nicholas Alidenes
14 - Joseph Ellul
17 - Ben Price
18 - Trent Holmes
19 - Ben Thompson

Team Colours
White Shirts
White Shorts
Green Socks

Coach - Frank Lang

Round Five Super

Kick Off 5.00pm

Bankstown City Lions *Vs* Leichhardt Tigers

Seymour Shaw Park
Sunday March 9th

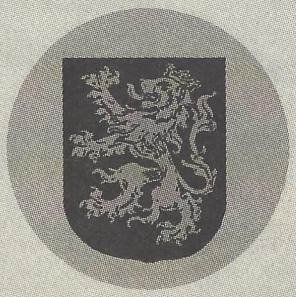
Team Colours
Red Shirts
Black Shorts
Red Socks

Team Colours
Maroon & Blue Shirts
Maroon Shorts
Maroon Socks

Tony Kostadinovski - 1	1 - Frank Mikuletic
Tony Josevski - 2	2 - Alex Arauja
Saso Boskovski - 3	3 - Sal Zullo
Mendo Ralevski - 4	4 - Blago Milicevic
Can Celik - 5	5 - Martin Driene
Robert Gomez - 6	6 - Fabio Macolino
Stephen Eagleton - 7	7 - Damien Smith
Mile Todoroski - 8	8 - Mite Talcevski
Michael Hawyrusiuk - 9	9 - Eric Williams
Tony Velevski - 10	10 - John Buonavoglia
Ozcan Celik - 11	11 - Sasha Telisman
Bobby Zafirov - 12	13 - Frank Ianni
Stewart Van Bentum - 13	20 - Ante Covic
Damien Luksic - 16	
Ray Younis - 17	
Robert Raguz - 20	

Coach - David Mijalkov

Coach - Tony Pezzano



League

Kick Off 7.00pm

Sutherland Sharks *Vs* Canterbury Marrickville

Seymour Shaw Park
Sunday March 9th

Team Colours
White Shirts
Black Shorts
Blue Socks

Paul Henderson - 20
Paul Donnelly - 2
Greg Lerond - 3
Justin McLeay - 4
Scott Henderson - 5
Keegan Pillay - 6
Shane Clinch - 7
David Thomas - 8
Grant Bard - 9
Stuart Porter - 10
Anthony Versi - 11
Tony Cabassi - 12
Tony Brandtman - 13
Harry Christodoulou - 14
Sam Mozny - 15
Pablo Moralis - 16

Coach - Peter Terry

1 - Steve Tolios
2 - Michael Raeburn
3 - Spiro Hantzis
4 - Angelo Markopoulos
5 - John Manolopoulos
6 - Matthew Shepherd
7 - Con Paradisis
8 - Jose Mendes
9 - Zoran Ilic
10 - Steve Christoforidis
11 - Juliano Damjano
14 - Steve Georgallis
16 - Jim Nikas
17 - John Christou
19 - Nathan Hall
20 - Richard Patrizi
21 - John Tsilinikos

Team Colours
Blue Shirts
Blue Shorts
Blue Socks

Coach - John Xipolitas

Teenage Revolution

BY IAN MARIOTT

DIVISION ONE

St George Saints

1996: 13th in Super Youth League club championship; U13-11th, U14-13th, U15-11th, U16-12th.

Having been relegated the Saints will find this level more to their liking, but I feel it will be a few years before they manage to go back up again. The 13's are best chance for the semis while older ages should finish mid table.

Leichhardt Tigers

1996: 3rd. U13-2nd, beaten grand finalists, U14-9th, U15-7th, U16-5th.

Last year saw an improved performance for the Tigers who are desperate to move back into Super Youth League. Must be considered one of the favourites this season. Will be stronger that last season and have strong semi and championship chances in the 13's and 14's.

"The younger age groups are showing a marked improvement and if the trend continues should find themselves knocking on the door for promotion sooner than later."

CSI Schofields

1996: 4th; U13-4th, U14-8th, U15-14th, U16-Premiers.

The club's position on the championship ladder was mainly due to the success of the under 16's. Will need to improve in the 15's and a strong showing in the under 13's and 14's to repeat last year's performance.

Eastern Suburbs

1996: 9th; U13-8th, U14-11th, U15-8th, U16-2nd.

Will need to improve dramatically in order to achieve promotion. The 14's are a good chance for the semis being unlucky last season. This year's 16's will find it tough meulating last year's performance.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles

1996: 6th; U13-14th, U14-3rd, U15-4th, U16-4th.

One of the most outstanding clubs in Div 1 last year and just failed to win promotion.

Will need to be strong in the 13s and 14s to again be a threat for promotion.

Bankstown

1996: 7th; U13-7th, U14-2nd, U15-10th, U16-10th.

The association looks set to prosper following the demise of Bankstown City. All teams will be stronger and should be semi

SOCCER NSW, SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION is organising a package tour to Malaysia and Japan for U12 - U16 boys and girls teams.

The tour would be during the September/October school holidays, approximate cost $2100 - $2400 per person which includes airfares, hotel accommodation, sightseeing in Malaysia and Japan (Disneyland), transfers etc.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION ON (02) 9629 1800.

chances with the 15s favourites for back-to-back championships.

Blacktown

1996: 8th; U13-6th, U14-10th, U15-9th, U16-8th.

A disappointing year for the Demons and will be looking to improve dramatically. Not promotion material at this stage. Look to the younger ages for best chances to make the finals.

Nepean

1996: 9th; U13-3rd, U14-4th, U15-13th, U16-12th.

The younger age groups are showing a marked improvement and if the trend continues should find themselves knocking on the door for promotion sooner than later. May suffer from competition for players with Penrith Panthers who have moved up a notch.

Southern

1996: 10th. The 16s will be favourites to make it back-to-back championships while all other sides have the ability to make it through to the finals.

Rockdale City Suns

1996: 11th. The Suns performed miracles in the older ages and managed a rags to riches performance in the 16's where they took out the championship from third spot.

Granville

1996: 12th. Disappointing season for the Magpies who just avoided relegation. Aligned to the Parramatta Eagles, so one expects a stronger showing.

Kuringai

1996: 14th. Despite finishing last, survived relegation because no other clubs in the vicinity. Will always find it difficult to be competitive as the better players move to other clubs.

Will be doing well if they can finish out of the bottom two.

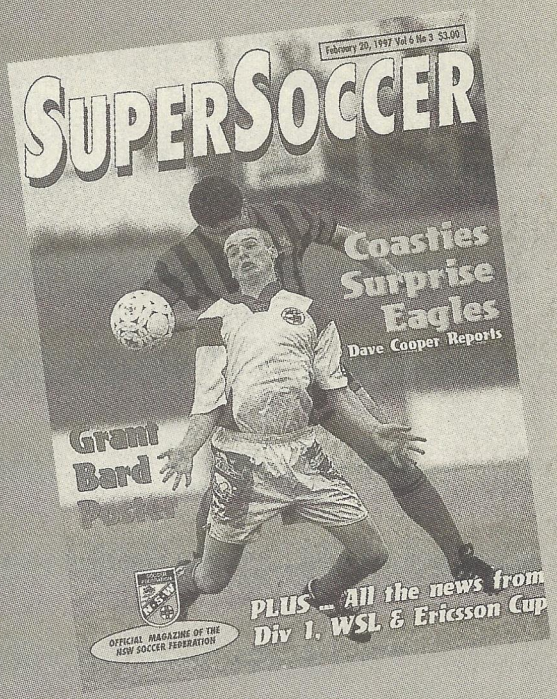
Penrith Panthers

One of the clubs of the future. Won a club championship in first season. All four sides made it to the semi finals, magnificent achievement.

AC United

Division 2 runners-up. U13-2nd, U14-2nd, U15-11th, U16-4th.

Bounced back in 1996 after being relegated the year before. Should be able to stay up considering the strength of their younger sides. Likely to finish mid-table.



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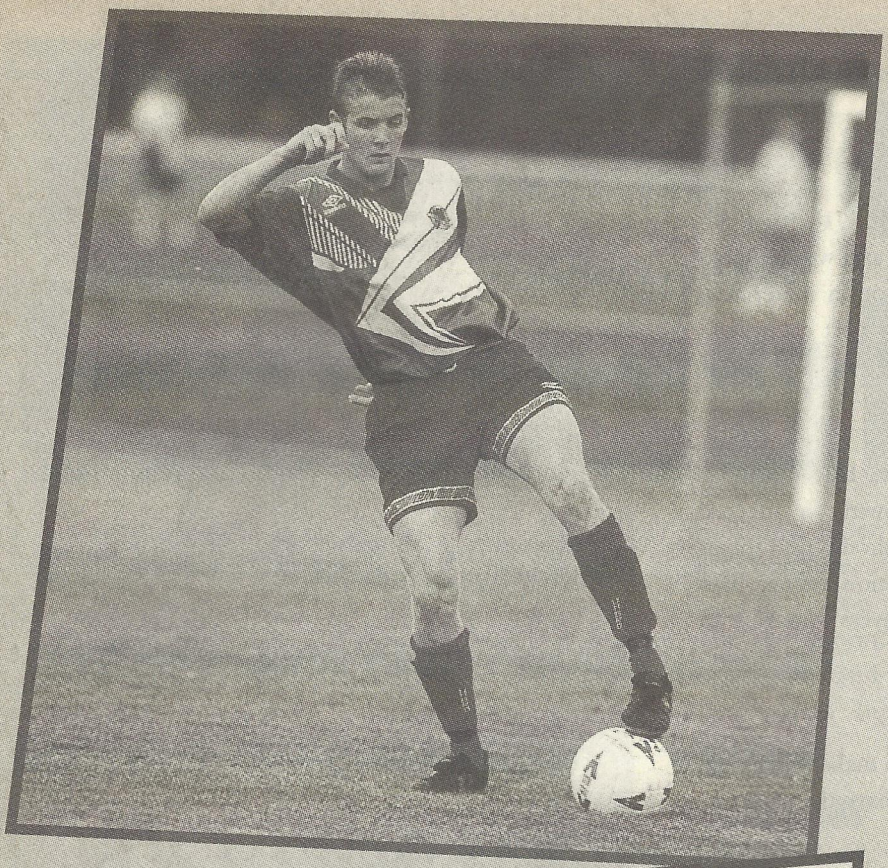
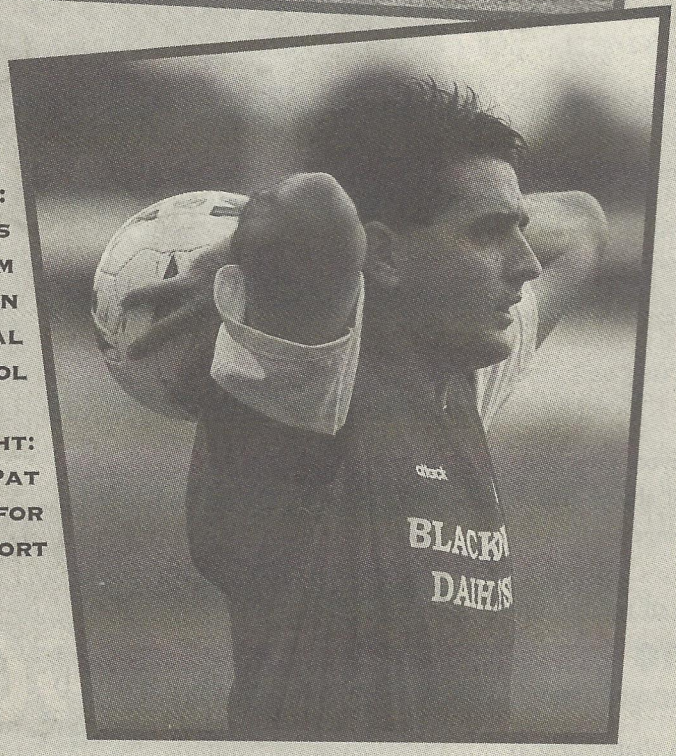
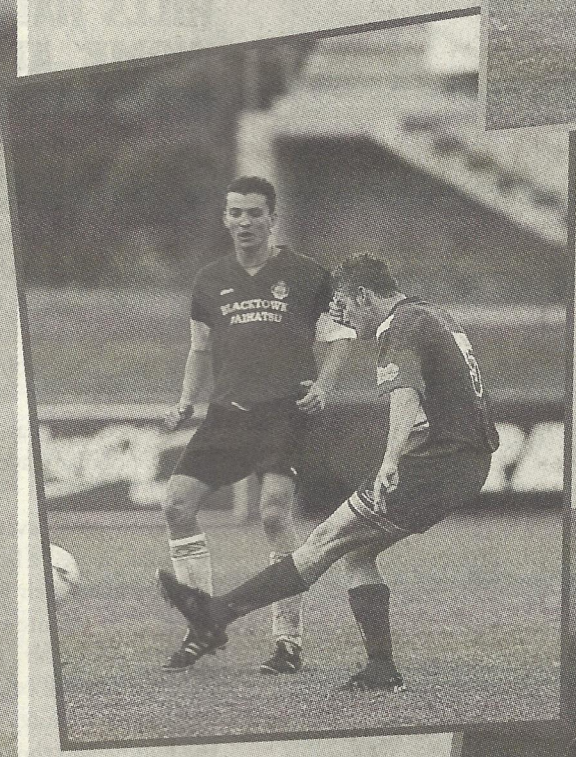




Above: Adamstown's Adam Sanderson looks in total control

Right: Bonnyrigg's Pat Agius looks for support

SuperSoccer



ABOVE LEFT: DEAN HARDING TRIES TO GET THE DEMONS MOVING IN ATTACK.

ABOVE RIGHT: PARRAMATTA'S EXCITING YOUNG DEFENDER DAVID HUXLEY

ABOVE: REFEREE GREG LAVERTON GETS A CLOSE VIEW OF THE PLAY

ABOVE: ADAM SANDERSON CLEARS AWAY FROM BONNYRIGG'S MIRKO NINKOVIC

RIGHT: DEMON'S CAPTAIN STEVE BERRY SHIELDS THE BALL AWAY FROM CHRISTIAN ORTIZ

NEXT WEEKS GAMES
ROUND SEVEN

SATURDAY 15TH MARCH

Bathurst '75 vs Ryde City	Alec Lamberton	3pm
Penrith Panthers vs Belmore Hercules	Penrith Park	3pm
Round 2 (deferred) Warringah Dolphins vs Rockdale City Suns	Cromer Park	5.30pm

SUNDAY 16TH MARCH

Rockdale City Suns vs West Wanderers	R. Ilinden Sports C.	3pm
Illawarra Lions vs Stanmore Hawks	Ian McLellan Park	3pm
Warringah Dolphins vs Mt. Pritchard	Cromer Park	5pm
Eastern Suburbs vs Hills United	Wentworth Park	3pm
Fairfield Bulls vs Hurst. City Minotaurs	Ninevah Field	3pm
Greystanes vs Auburn United	Cook Park (Bonnyrigg)	3pm

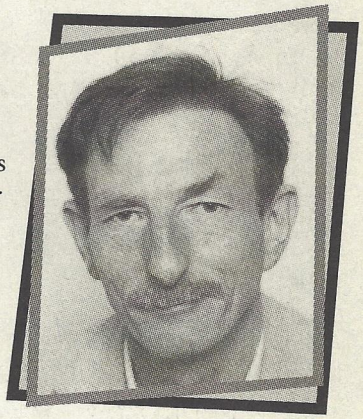
LEADING SCORERS

7 Louis Dounis (Hurst),
5 Eddie Briscoe (Stan), Matthew Borg (Ryde), Scott Mutton,
4 Con Anagnastopoulos (Stan), Chris Sciberras (Grey), Adam Hagger (Hills),
3 Danny Hinton (Pen), Richard Astone (Pen), Steve Butcher (Warr)
2 Jim Boudaher (Ryde), Greg Baldock (MP), Shane Coombes (Hills), Nihad Ahmed (F), Luke Allshorn (Hills), Jane Crkovski (Rock), Andy Stratford (Ryde), Deniz Keselik (Aub), Mark Rooke (Bath), Allan Welsh (Ryde), Robert Trajcevski (Ill), N Lieberman (Bel), Jim Melissourgos (Bel), Geo Kalogeras (Hurst),
1 Jason Wyngaard, Kaan Davies (Pen), Bernie Voloder, Danny Barbalace (Warr), Brad Gallard, Shane West (Bath), Trent Worrall, Matthew Richardson, James Mallia (West), Nick Markovski, Toni Salev, Spase Najdovski (Rock), Stellios Sampsonis, (Hurst), Gerry Gomez, Steve McComb, Nick Knithakis (East), Boban Ivastanin, Marco Quintao (MP), Cane Despotovski (Ill), Ante Krezo, Unal Ogmen (Aub), Scott Cumming, Nabil Codmani (F), Steve Aravena (MP), Kevin Lester (Hills), Matthew Remondos (Hurst), Grant Lee, Mick Daniels (Easts), Tim Preston (Warr), Jason Petrides (Bel), Ari Zafiris (Bel), Vulcan Yiledirim (Ryde), Tim Stratford (Ryde), Micahel Lardis (Stan), Peter Kypreos (Stan), Ante Zizic (MP, Zlatko Markovski (Rock), Javos Ekinci (East), Darren Read (Hills)

First Division Weekend Review

PAUL GOODWIN REPORTS

HILLS HAPPY 'HOME' AT NINEVEH



Nineveh Field was the venue for Hills for the second week in a row, but this time they played their own 'home' game there and were pleased to get back on the winning trail.

Helped by a hat-trick from Adam Hagger, a likely first for the popular player, Hills were well on top for most of the game.

When they eventually took their foot off the pedal Rockdale scored a late consolation goal, but by then the Hills had stretched their lead to five.

A 27th minute diving header from Hagger opened the scoring after Bob Casserley had found Kevin Lester, who then cut the ball back nicely.

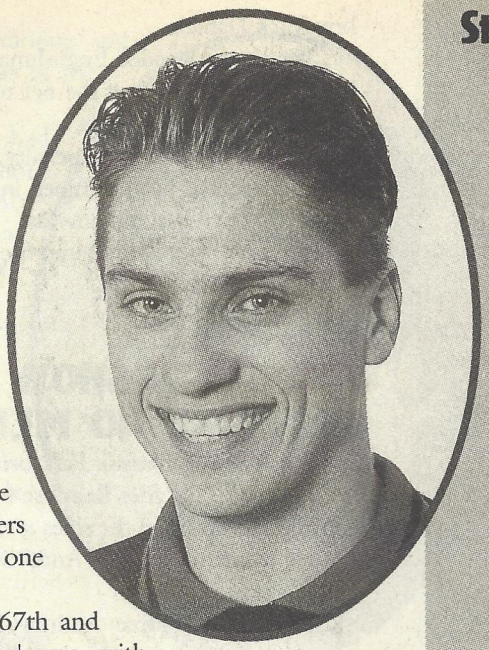
Twelve minutes later Casserley sent Hagger away down the middle and the player lobbed the ball over the advancing keeper.

Hagger contributed to the third goal in sending Luke Allshorn away to the byline from where the cross was met by a far post header by Lester, four minutes before the break.

Andrew Bow provided the spadework for the hat-trick hero Hagger to make it 4-0 in the 55th, the forceful shot having enough on it to spill over the line from the keeper's desperate diving save.

Lester and Hagger worked the ball to Allshorn from the right for the fifth, a first time confident finish. The 78th minute goal for Jane Crkovski resulted from the Rockdale man springing the offside trap successfully.

WARRINGAH'S FIRST SCALP ... GREYSTANES'



And so the 2nd Division champions and premiers, Greystanes, after doing so well the previous week against Ryde have still not found the winning formula.

Warringah were two up within 15 minutes before Chris Sciberras, one of the few Greystanes players to really shine, could pull one back in the 32nd minute.

Further goals in the 67th and 73rd added to the Stanes' woe, with Sciberras getting his second in the 80th to keep the score more respectable.

An experiment plotted in midweek by wily Warringah coach Agenor Muniz led to one of his new signings from Ryde, defender Steve Butcher, being the scorer of a hat-trick as a forward.

The Dolphins started without the injured pair of 17 year old sensation Roland Weber and Jun Miyamoto, but with new capture Vic Masi controlling things and another newcomer Tim Preston making an impact, the game developed into one way traffic.

Two other 17 year olds, Kelvin Foster and Anthony Barbalace also had sound games for a side which comprised 8 players from last season's Under 18 squad.

Butcher, who skippered Ryde's Under 21 side last term, was on hand to tuck away a spilled shot from Dave Guzzo in the 7th minute and then did all the work himself for the second, firing home from a difficult angle.

His third was a good finish to a cross from the right by Mark Moult.

Preston capitalised on good lead up work by Masi and the club was then able to celebrate at a hugely successful dinner-dance at a Dee Why nightspot, with a delighted Brazilian maestro, Muniz, demonstrating the samba well into the early hours.

EASTS STILL UNBEATEN

Easts showed their strength by accounting for one relegated side on Saturday after holding another, Rockdale, the previous weekend. They were shaken by a freak early goal for Illawarra at the half hour mark, the free kick from the right touchline, by Robert Trajevski, 30 yards out, beating Les Bihari (above) at the near post.

They rallied with substitute Grant Lee equalising in the 55th minute after coming off the bench and nodding the ball, despatched from the right, past an advancing keeper.

Despite losing Chris Redding to two cautions Easts were able to get the winner in the 70th minute, courtesy of debut

Stanmore Hawks Vs Rockdale City Suns

SUNDAY – ARLINGTON OVAL – 3PM

Paul Kyprianou	David Aceski
Eddie Briscoe	Mohammed Sabra
Burim Zajmi	Andrew Mchardy
Jason Oldridge	Tony Dimanovski
Nick A. Kartambis	Peter Dameski
George Maglis	Anthony Friedli
Theo Katsaros	Jovan Ckorovski
Peter Kypreos	Toni Salev
Daniel Percy	Spase Najdovski
Harry Danilidis	Iain Macdonald
Nick Boliantis	Nick Bejkovski
Con Anagnostopoulos	Zlatko Markovski
Nick Kambounias	Mile Trpcevski
Con Bakafoukas	Mahmoud Saab
Michael Lardis	Nick Markovski
Philip Cacciola	Michael Kotevski
Daniel Occhipinti	David Martin
Dean Heselhurst	

Mt Pritchard Vs Illawarra Lions

SUNDAY – COOK PARK (BONNYRIGG) – 5PM

Matt Darwen	Anthony Avellino
Troy Davies	Robert Ristevski
Willie Aliosi	Roger Ristevski
Ante Zizic	Robert Mihailov
Eric Lynch	Alex Borsato
Andrew Fajardo	Steven Nikolovski
Eddie Giraldo	Cane Dsepotovski
Scott Spurway	Chris Jankulovski
Franco Cosentino	Pece Maksovic
Greg Baldock	Robert Trajevski
Marco Quintao	Tony Mojanovski
Paul Arancio	Nicholas Ryan
Scott Ferguson	Tony Tancevski
Steve Aravena	Filipo Gaio
Sime Krslovic	Bale Kuzmanovski
Brett Smyth	Oliver Vrtkovski

Hills United Vs Warringah Dolphins

SUNDAY – FRED CATERSON RESERVE – 3PM

Terry Ide	Peter Cveticanin
David Moss	Anthony Oppedisano
Laurence Hall	John Sherry
Andrew Bow	Danny Barbalace
Adam Hagger	Kelvin Foster
Bob Casserley	Ross Etherington
Darren Read	David Guzzo
Luke Allshorn	Jun Miyamoto
Kevin Lester	Frank Mesiti
Justin Young	Roland Weber
Lawrie Mckinna	David Zavaglia
Jason Eager	Anthony Barbalace
Paul Meighan	Hassan El Khan
Bernhard Voloder	Nick Femia
Shane Coombes	Nick Beram
John Faulkner	Mark Moult
Matthew Goodwin	Peter Cetrangolo
	Anthony Surace
	Frank Chirillo
	Roy Papalia

West Wanderers Vs Fairfield Bulls

SATURDAY – HAJDUK STADIUM – 3PM

Victor Vella	Scott Allan
Martin Cassar	Angelo Castiglione
Travis Reeve	Mark Abi-Arrage
Darren Camilleri	Robert Grubba
Daniel Adamcewicz	Chris Giometti
Tony Caruso	Nathan Cuneen
Johnathon Langan	Dragan Grujic
Chris Senat	Keith Jeffs
Liam Gibbs	Jamie Nunez
Adrian Cachia	Fadi Chedid
Jason Vella	Kamal Codmani
Matthew Richardson	Nabil Codmani
Thomas Higgins	Rick Giometti
James Mallia	Ian Stoddard
Heath Borg	Danny Georges
Tim Newton	Darryn Carney
Simon Cassar	Sasho Talevski
Adam Mammoliti	Nihad Ahmed
Trent Worrall	Richard Varga
Rodrigo Salinas	Jason Hallaby

boy Mick Daniels.

The shaven-headed Englishman hit a superb 35 yard drive low into the bottom of the net to cap a solid all round performance for his new side.

Gerry Gomez had a penalty kick brilliantly saved after Gary Spivac had been dumped inside the area, but Easts, by then, had sewn it all up anyway.

They certainly appreciated the cooler conditions afforded by the 6 o'clock kick-off.

RYDE CITY SHOW BELMORE NO MERCY

A rare outing at Christie Park brought out a goodish crowd for the visit of old foes Belmore to Ryde on Saturday.

All that separated the sides at the finish was a 37th minute header from the leaping Andy Stratford for the 1-0 home win.

Belmore did force Andrew Prentice into making one superb save, but it was the shocking misses in front of goal by Ryde striker Matthew Borg and friends which kept the score down to just the one. He alone missed a hatful and the others weren't much better.

Belmore had a goal disallowed for offside, netted by Argentinian midfielder Gaston Herrera and after a slow start the Hercules team now look to be nearing their best form.

STANMORE SUCCUMB TO BATHURST

With Eddie Briscoe regaining full match fitness there is no limit to what the Hawks can achieve this season.

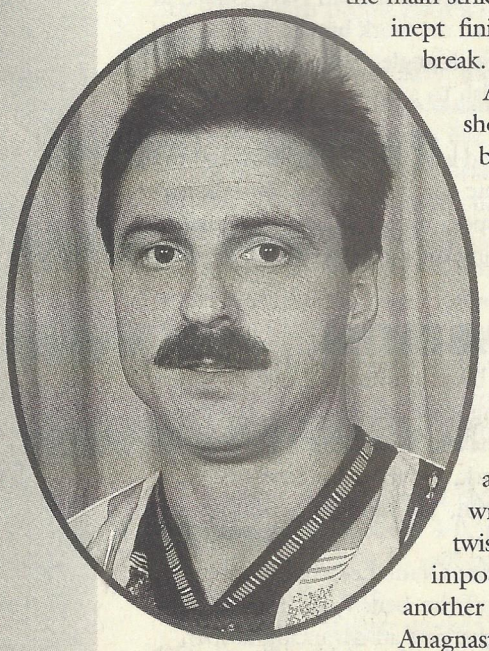
But they will need to finish a lot better than they did against Bathurst if they are to get their name in lights.

Time and again Briscoe did the hard lead up work only for the main strikers to let the side down with inept finishing, especially before the break.

Admittedly Briscoe himself should have scored an equaliser, but headed over from 4 yards out near the end, but the damage was already done.

Braydon Barcham in the Bathurst goal excelled himself, with some super saves. On one occasion Briscoe got the better of Ken Barwick, with his shot deflecting off the defender and sending the keeper the wrong way. Somehow Barcham twisted around and made the impossible save and there was another brilliant effort to deny Con Anagnastopoulos whose shot seemed destined to find the top right corner.

Bathurst adapted better to the

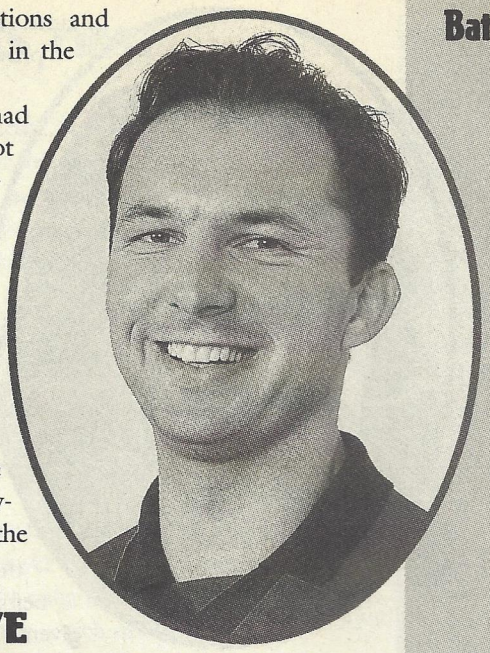


BURIM ZAJMI ... WILL BE A KEY TO STANMORE HAWK'S SUCCESS IN 1997

oppressive summer conditions and notched their lone winner in the 70th minute.

Brad Gallard, who had seen his own 40 yard shot saved by Stanmore custodian Paul Kyprianou, put a magic ball through for Mark Rooke who cut the ball back perfectly for Mutton to finish off nicely.

Stanmore raised another effort after the goal went in to trouble Bathurst a little, but the travelling team held on for the win.



VLADEN RADIC ... MT PRITCHARD'S NEW SIGNING FROM MACARTHUR

MOUNTIES GIVE NOTHING AWAY AGAINST BULLS

Sound defence has always been their hallmark and the Mounties let nobody within a Bulls roar of their goal against Fairfield.

Or at least that must be how it seemed on paper, with the Mount Pritchard side getting their winner seconds before the break in a typical counter offensive.

A long ball from deep by Franco Cosentino was perfectly weighted for Steve Aravena to speed through an opening and clip the ball past the exposed Scott Allan.

The first half had seemed to belong to Fairfield, especially the opening half hour, but after the 'drinks break' called by referee Steve Gillespie, the tide began to turn.

Nihad Ahmed was guilty of missing some real sitters for the Bulls, but Mounties grew in confidence as the game wore on and began to pepper the Fairfield goal.

Cosentino let rip from 25 yards forcing Allan to turn the ball around the post and not long after an Aravena screamer was tipped over by the acrobatic Bulls' goalie.

He also booted off the line from a Boban Ivastanin shot, this player having another chance to score from a through ball by Marco Quintao, but electing to pass the ball square when his own chance appeared a better option.

Fairfield lost their way a little in the second half and had a player sent off, which did not help, but full credit to Mounties who have been the surprise packet so far this summer.

WESTS FALL TO PENRITH AT HAJDUK

Wests are still looking for their first point, after conceding more goals on Saturday against Penrith, who are the big improvers right now.

Things were pretty steady early on, but once Richard Astone had headed in a David Fitzharris cross in the 35th minute the Panthers began to dominate.

Early in the second spell Astone nodded in another, this

Bathurst '75 Vs Hurstville City Minotaurs

SUNDAY – ALEC LAMBERTON – 3PM

Braydon Barcham	John Mylonas
Paul Waine	Stellios Sampsonis
David Judge	Gerry Mamolis
Adam Collins	Peter Papoythis
Ken Barwick	Sam Panagakis
Tony Clancy	Tom Pontidas
Tony Judge	George Zabetakis
Mark Rooke	Ricky Somboli
Shaun Dixon	Tony Mihaljevic
Scott Mutton	George Kalogeras
Shane West	Dario Fernandez
Adrian Renike	Ross Poulos
Simon David	Manuel Sarikakis
Brent Griffiths	Jim Iliopoulos
Matthew Markwick	Louis Dounis
	Jason Wells
	Peter Ifandoudas
	Con Kristallis
	John Pelekanos
	Mathew Remondos

Ryde City Vs Penrith Panthers

SUNDAY – T. G. MILLNER FIELD – 3PM

Andrew Prentice	Troy Armstrong
Paul Watkins	Richard Stone
Chris Cowley	Peter Bennett
Richard Miranda	Jarod Bone
Andrew Stratford	Bob Bosevski
Tim Stratford	Andrew Brockbank
Nils Johnsson	Brett Buckpitt
Jeff Kelly	Kaan Davies
Allan Welsh	Glen Donegal
Leo Ulloa	David Fitzharris
Matthew Borg	Rowan Healey
John McKie	Daniel Hinton
Stephen Duval	Daniel Margetts
Tim Gledhill	Darren Mcentee
Danny Blanco	Chris Minol
Alf Cirino	Aaron Murray
Jim Boudaher	Mick Patterson
Michael Masulans	Craig Perring
Brad Glassock	Rod Wilson
Anthony Philp	Jason Wyngaard

Belmore Hercules Vs Auburn United

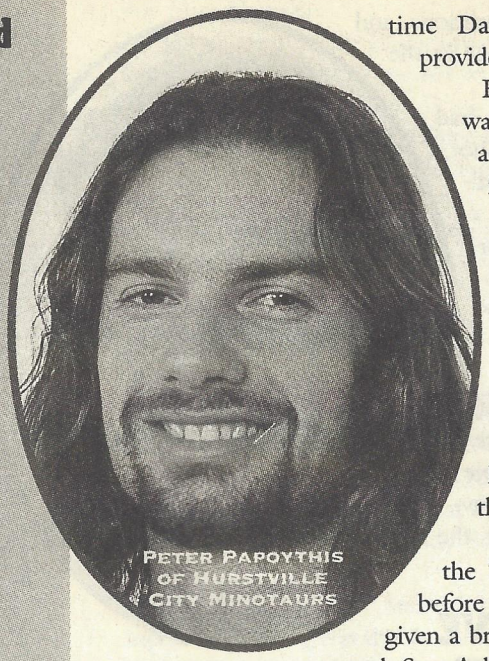
SUNDAY – ERNIE SMITH RESERVE – 3PM

Angelo Rodic	Haydar Arslan
John Cosentino	Murat Kuru
Manuel Pavlidis	Russell Cachia
Ari Zafiris	Yecel Cetinay
Jason Petrides	John Karavana
Marshall Soper	Erkin Elveren
Jason Lal	Ante Krezo
John Tratselas	Tolga Ors
Jim Melissourgos	Mustafa Kadayifci
Paul Glekas	Ugur Taskin
Nathan Livermore	Deniz Keselik
Manos Sartzetakis	Ali Senol
Paul Castillo	Erkan Demir
Perry Giannopoulos	Hulusi Orhan
Steve Lombardo	Robert Issa
Gaston Herrara	Unal Ogmen
Frank Laridet	Aydin Cetinay
	Hakan Sevgin
	K.S. Chang
	Roman Vedat

Eastern Suburbs Vs Greystanes

SUNDAY – WENTWORTH PARK – 3PM

Les Bihari	David Apps
Gary Spivak	Kenny Bridge
Mathew Dihm	Drew Cauchi
Gerry Gomez	Darren Crittenden
Rudi Jerkovic	Mark Crittenden
Mick Daniels	Scott Cumming
Kevin Watson	Simon Doueihi
Grant Lee	Michael Grass
Mathew French	Todd Harper
Steve McCombe	Bill Karkaletsis
Chris Reading	Scott Harris
Yavos Ekinci	Andrew Kidd
Damien Shepherd	Darren Peters
Ben Blake	Brad Racker
Steve Lawrenson	Craig Schofield
Rick Oppedisano	Chris Sciberras
	Ryan Sciberras
	Justin Thomas
	Darren Waterson
	Brendon Wilson



PETER PAPOYTHIS OF HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS

time Danny Hinton being the provider.

Hinton himself worked his way into the box along with a few fellow Penrith players in the 70th and after controlling the ball, found the roof of the net with a tidy shot from close range.

Darren Camilleri had given Wanderers some hope when he got to a ball from deep before the keeper, but lifted it over the bar, moments earlier.

Hinton added a fourth in the 75th again from close in, before both he and Astone were given a breather for the next day by coach Stan Ackerley.

Wests then pulled one back as Penrith defender Rod Wilson's intended header back to the keeper went over that man Bob Bosevski' head. Martin Cassar raced through the gap to head into an empty net.

MINOTAURS SEE OFF AUBURN

A few goals were bound to be about when these two attacking minded sides met at Ernie Smith

Louis Dounis managed only 9 all season in the star-studded Sydney Cosmos premiership-winning side last term, but after less than half a dozen games with Minotaurs he has reached that target already.

He cracked home his seventh of the season in the 18th minute of this match when he benefitted from a smart run by Tony Mihaljevic, who beat two defenders before crossing cleverly for Dounis to finish off inside the box.

Auburn equalised in the 42nd from a shot by Deniz Keselik which John Mylonas got a hand to, but could not prevent earning the visitors a goal.

Matthew Remondos grabbed the winner for the impressive Minotaurs with a header, finishing off a cross from the left by Stellios Sampsonis in the 75th.

MINOTAURS' ROUT AT PENRITH

Penrith could not continue their good form from Saturday into Sunday and found the Hurstville Minotaurs too powerful.

It did not help their cause that Peter Bennett was sent off midway through the first half.

Tom Pontidas headed in a cross from Dario Fernandez in the 16th and then George Kalogeras stamped his class on the game with a 40 yard screamer in the 35th.

Tony Mihaljevic did all the spade work for Louis Dounis to get the third in the 49th and a through ball sent Dounis away to go around the keeper and get his second in the 86th for a conclusive 4-0 result.

BELMORE POSTS FIRST VICTORY

Belmore broke the ice at Melita Stadium when Greystanes found themselves under lots of pressure from a side still smarting from a narrow loss the previous day.

Ari Zafiris got the visitors away to an early lead in the third minute, with big Jim Melissourgos, last year's top 1st Division scorer, slipping on his shooting shoes to open his account with goals in the 10th and 29th minutes.

Jason Petrides added a fourth, before Chris Sciberras netted for Greystanes. 18 year old substitute Nathan Lieberman came on for ten minutes and scored two fine goals to wrap up an impressive first win for the side coached this year by Marshall Soper.

Soper feels that he now has the squad firing and the addition of a new 22 year old player from Bankstown and the inclusion of Herrera can only enhance the prospects of his side, which is very much on the march now.

ROCKDALE HOME FORM STILL SOUND

Rockdale posted a good point against the hitherto unbeaten Mount Pritchard on Sunday.

Zlatko Markovski's 38th minute goal cancelled out defender Ante Zizic's 12 minute contribution and helped his side to its third game at home without defeat.

RYDE COMPLETES WEEKEND DOUBLE

Could this be Ryde's year? Back at Macquarie University for the Auburn game they went about their business with a minimum of fuss.

They've never begun better than this, with goals going in which in other years would have just missed.

For visitors Auburn it was a tale of three goalkeepers.

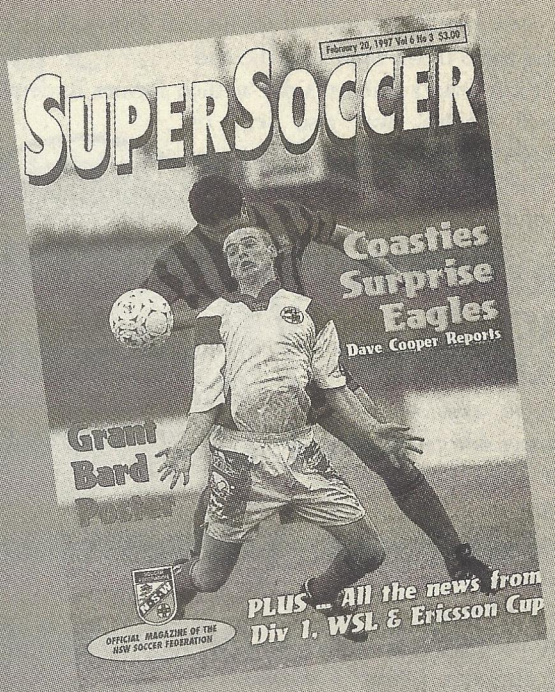
The first Soner Omac was everywhere in the first half hour coming repeatedly off his line to punch clear, but collided with another player and had to leave the field with a suspected collar bone fracture. He had kept a clean sheet, thanks to his heroics.

His replacement Haydar Arslan was soon in action and conceded three goals before being dismissed by referee Terry A Cross for his on field misbehaviour.

Arslan had disputed Ryde's third goal a forceful header from Matthew Borg which had seen the ball already cross the line before the keeper could push it back into play.

Taking over then was Murat Kuru somewhat smaller of stature and unable to prevent three more goals from the home team.

Andy Stratford had headed in the first, his brother Tim got his boot in before Borg for the second, to finish off a neat cross by John McKie and then Borg added another by springing the trap from the half way line, making the most of his abundant pace.



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Borg then laid on a goal for debut boy Vulcan Vildirim and then Alan Welsh showed off his deft footwork, in close, to seal the 6-0 win right near the end.

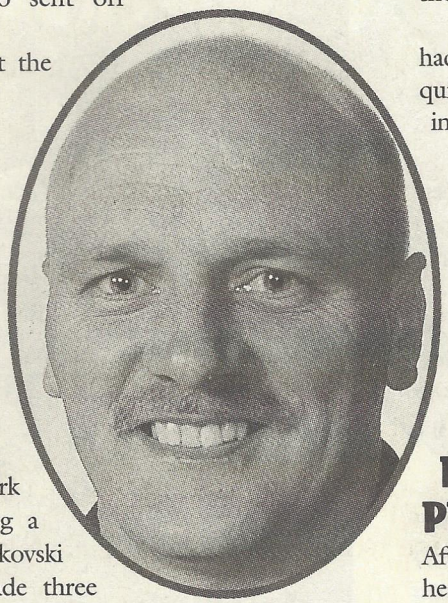
It just wasn't Auburn's day as their former Ryde player, Russell Cachia, was also sent off towards the end.

The win kept Ryde at the top of the table.

HILLS FIGHT BACK AT ILLAWARRA

Perhaps this youthful Illawarra side can provide their large following in Wollongong with a season to remember after all, on this performance.

They made Hills work hard for their win, taking a lead through Oliver Vrtkovski when Terry Ide had made three quick saves following a free kick in the 36th.



ANDREW BROCKBANK OF THE PENRITH PANTHERS

Two goals only minutes after the break established the win for Hills, Darren Read being involved in both.

Read's cross found Allshorn whose return ball from the left was nodded in by Adam Hagger. Read then ran onto a through pass by Allshorn to hit the ball on the run past the keeper.

BATHURST TAKE POINTS FROM WESTS

A straightforward 4-0 win for Bathurst after a successful trip to Sydney was delivered on Sunday by a side which is playing some very attacking football this year.

Scott Mutton weighed in with his first hat-trick of the season and Mark Rooke added a fourth, with all the goals coming in the last half hour against a West Wanderers side which must now regroup after losing each of their early matches in 1997.

DOLPHINS NUDGED OUT BY EASTS

After an even game which flowed back and forth for ninety minutes Eastern Suburbs ran out 1-0 winners at Cromer Park, a goal soon after the break settling it for them. A Kevin Watson shot rattled the crossbar, leaving Yavos Ekinci to put the loose ball away.

STANMORE BACK IN BUSINESS

Held back by Bathurst, Stanmore stormed to a big win over Fairfield Bulls at Nineveh Field on Sunday.

Fairfield were in the game until Nihad Ahmed was sent off midway through the first half, but the ten men left to carry the day found the odds mounting against them.

Eddie Briscoe put away a penalty after Nathan Cuneen had brought him down and this 52nd minute opener was quickly followed by a routine goal by Con Anagnastopoulos in the 58th.

Michael Lardis scored the best goal of the game, involving 12 consecutive passes in the lead up work in the 61st. Briscoe then added three more in inimitable fashion, with Peter Kyprios sandwiching another in between.

To compound their problems Fairfield striker Sasha Talevski missed a penalty near the end.

The Bulls missed the authority of Robbie Grubba and the promptings of Chris Giometti, as well as the bustle of Mark Abi-Arrage.

BRIEF WEEKEND PREVIEW - ROUND SIX

After all the excitement and bustle of last weekend's double header for every club, we return to the relative sanity of just nine games this coming weekend.

A deferred game at Ian McLellan on Saturday sees Illawarra pitted against Greystanes, one match the visitors will have high hopes of winning.

The same day at Hajduk Stadium West Wanderers face Fairfield Bulls, the team from just around the corner, literally.

Nineveh is no more than a few easy steps away, but Wests should feel at home now and may do enough to pick up at least a point.

Sunday has Eastern Suburbs taking on the busy Greystanes, who will have played five games in a fortnight, a big ask for a team of locally-bred district-based players, albeit with big hearts.

Easts are going well and ought to capitalise, with 'Stanes weary in the leg department.

Belmore meet Auburn at Ernie Smith, a game the latter might fancy to win, while at T.G. Millner Ryde grapples with the Penrith Panthers, a mercurial outfit.

Bathurst are not likely to give in easily against the marauding Minotaurs and a point could go their way at Alex Lamberton Park.

Mount Pritchard could be too tough for Illawarra, the travelling and the previous day's outing likely to take their toll.

Stanmore could claim another victory against Rockdale at Arlington Oval, while Hills should be capable of getting all three points from Warringah Dolphins.

"Mount Pritchard could be too tough for Illawarra, the travelling and the previous day's outing likely to take their toll."

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Super League Pre-Season Cup Tables

Southern Group

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Sutherland Sharks	4	3	1	0	9	3	6	10
St. George Saints	4	2	1	1	8	6	2	7
Macarthur Rams	4	1	2	1	7	5	2	5
Leichhardt Tigers	4	1	2	1	4	5	-1	5
Canterbury M/Ville	4	1	0	3	6	10	-4	3
Bankstown City Lions	4	1	0	3	4	9	-5	3

* Macarthur awarded points against Bankstown who played an ineligible player

Northern Group

Teams	P.	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Central Coast	4	4	0	0	11	4	7	12 12
Blacktown City Demons	4	4	1	0	10	4	6	10 13
Parramatta Eagles	4	2	2	1	15	8	7	7 8
Bonnyrigg W.E.	4	2	0	2	9	5	4	6 7
Adamstown Rosebud	4	0	0	4	2	14	-12	0 0
Sydney United	4	0	0	4	1	14	-13	0 3

Division 1 Tables

First Grade

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Ryde City	5	5	0	0	13	3	10	15
Mt. Pritchard	5	4	1	0	6	2	4	13
Eastern Suburbs	5	3	2	0	6	3	3	11
Hurst. City Minotuars	4	3	0	1	10	2	8	9
Bathurst '75	5	3	0	2	10	4	6	9
Hills United	5	3	0	2	11	8	3	9
Stanmore Hawks	4	2	0	2	11	4	7	6
Penrith Panthers	4	2	0	2	8	7	1	6
Rockdale City Suns	4	1	2	1	6	6	0	5
Fairfield Bulls	5	1	2	2	3	10	-7	5
Belmore Hercules	4	1	0	3	7	7	0	3
Warringah Dolphins **	4	1	1	2	5	6	-1	3
Auburn United	4	1	0	3	4	11	-7	3
Illawarra Lions *	4	1	0	3	4	8	-4	0
West Wanderers	4	0	0	4	4	13	-9	0
Greystanes	4	0	0	4	5	19	-14	0**

Illawarra deducted 3 points ** Warringah deducted 1 point

Under 21's

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Hurst. City Minotaurs	5	5	0	0	16	2	14	15
Hills United	5	4	1	0	22	5	17	13
Bathurst '75	5	3	2	0	6	2	4	11
Mt. Pritchard	5	3	1	1	16	8	8	10
Eastern Suburbs	5	3	0	2	17	10	7	9
Auburn United	4	2	1	1	9	13	-4	7
Stanmore Hawks	4	2	0	2	12	6	6	6
Illawarra Lions	4	2	0	2	13	10	3	6

Under 21's (con't)

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
West Wanderers	4	1	1	2	5	4	1	4
Greystanes	4	1	1	2	7	9	-2	4
Ryde City	5	1	1	3	6	9	-3	4
Warringah Dolphins	4	1	1	2	5	8	-3	4
Penrith Panthers	5	1	0	4	8	16	-8	3
Belmore Hercules	4	1	0	3	2	10	-8	3
Fairfield Bulls	5	0	1	4	5	13	-8	1
Rockdale City Suns	4	0	0	4	1	27	-26	0

Under 18's

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Hills United	5	4	0	1	15	7	8	12
Ryde City	4	4	0	0	11	4	7	12
Stanmore Hawks	4	4	0	0	9	4	5	12
Mt. Pritchard	5	3	2	0	10	4	6	11
Eastern Suburbs	5	3	1	1	15	6	9	10
Bathurst ë75	5	2	1	2	10	8	2	7
Greystanes	4	2	1	1	9	7	2	7
West Wanderers	4	1	1	2	4	6	-2	7
Warringah Dolphins	4	2	0	2	10	5	5	6
Rockdale City Suns	4	2	0	2	11	8	3	6
Auburn United	4	1	2	1	4	4	0	5
Hurst. City Minotaurs	4	1	1	2	6	6	0	4
Penrith Panthers	5	1	0	4	2	10	-8	3
Fairfield Bulls	5	0	1	4	6	18	-12	1
Belmore Hercules	4	0	0	4	2	10	-8	0
Illawarra Lions	4	0	0	4	2	18	-16	0

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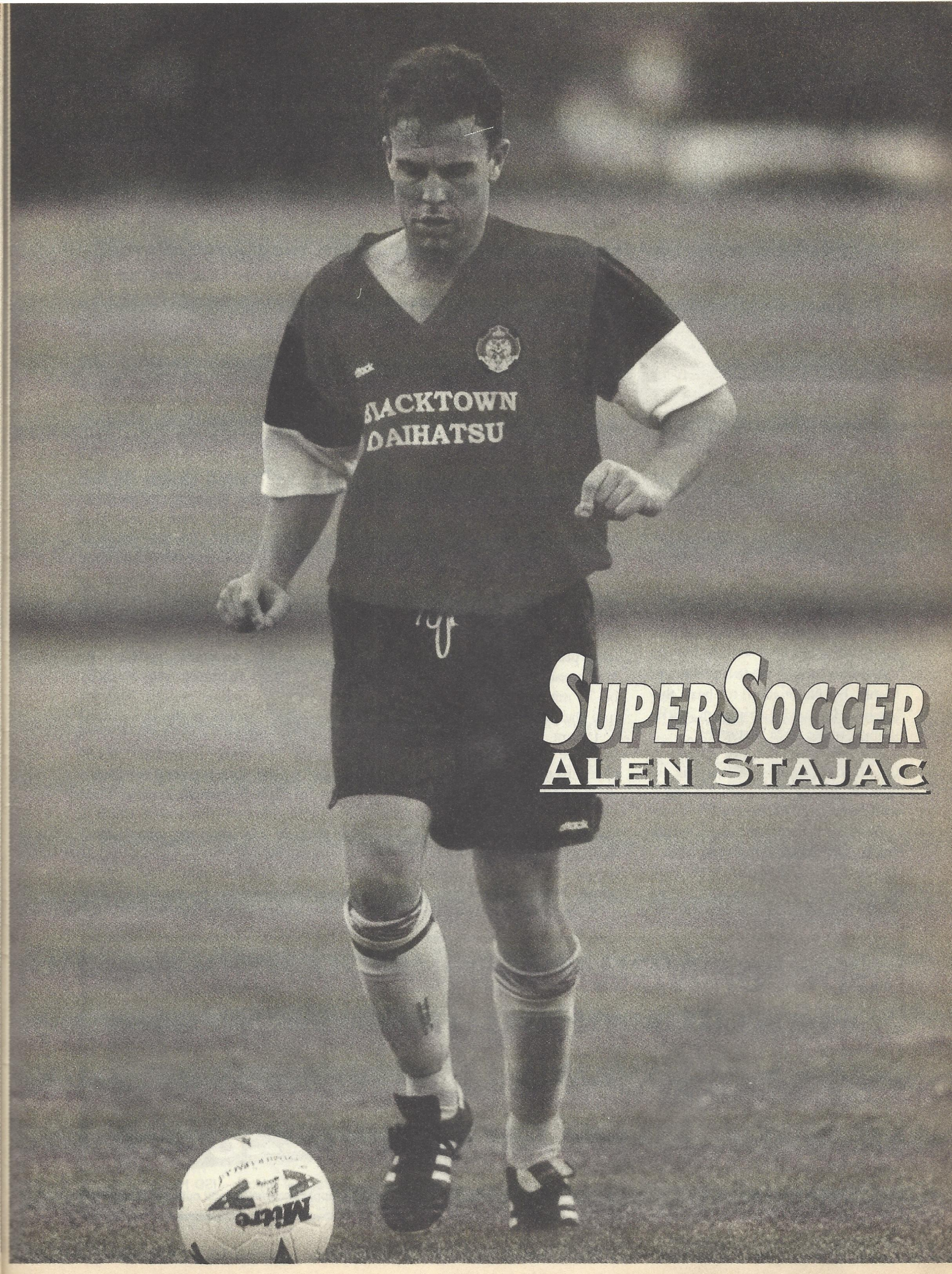

SuperSoccer

Alen Stajac

Women's Soccer

AUSTRALIA'S WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM WAS GIVEN A LESSON BY THE WORLD'S BEST, THE UNITED STATES, IN THE FIRST GAME OF THEIR THREE-MATCH SERIES IN MELBOURNE LAST WEEK. JANENE MAR REPORTS.

The Americans, gold medalists at last year's Atlanta Olympics, produced an outstanding display to win 4-0.

The visitors then made it a winning double by backingáup to beat the Aussies 3-1 at Carrington Park, Bathurst in the three Test series.

The effortless victories extended America's dominance of Australia in women's soccer with the US now holding a eight-nil advantage.

Australia battled hard but was no match for the Americans, who impressed with their ball skills and superb passing.

The visitors took the lead in the 12th minute through a header by Cindy Parlow and they could have been two up just minutes later after Parlow set up a chance for Tiffeny Milbrett, but her shot cannoned off a post.

The US was brilliantly led by Mia Hamm who had a hand in the second goal on 40 minutes when her free kick was headed home by Tisha Venturini.

Australia made a better fist of the second half but the US went further ahead when another perfectly placed free kick by Hamm was headed home on 71 minutes by substitute Danielle Fotopolous.

Hamm fittingly got on the score sheet a minute later to complete the rout.

The 1991 world champions opened the scoring at Bathurst in the 52nd minute when midfielder Justi Baumgartd cracked a drive from the top of the box past Australian goalkeeper Belinda Kitching.

Australia had a goal by Katrina Boyd in the 60th minute disallowed after referee Jenny Bray ruled the Matildas offside.

The Americans then lifted their game with Kristine Lilly providing their second goal in the 66th minute.

Brandi Chastain supplied the third in the 74th minute with a spot kick after Lilly was brought down in the penalty area by Cheryl Salisbury.

Cheered on by a vocal crowd of 3,870, a record attendance for a women's match in Australia, the Matildas skipper Sunni Hughes scored in the dying minutes.

"Cheered on by a vocal crowd of 3,870, a record attendence for a women's match in Australia, the Matildas skipper Sunni Hughes scored in the dying minutes'

Joint Australian coach Greg Brown praised the tenacity of the Australians.

"We finished with a goal, which is great to take into the next game," Brown said.

"We knew we didn't have a lot of time to make big changes and the girls responded tremendously well."

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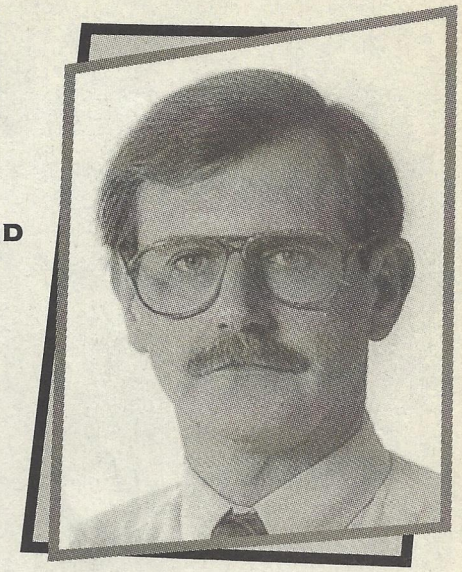
The National League

PETER KOGOY LOOKS AT THE GAMES AROUND THE COUNTRY.



CARETAKER coach David Mitchell, who came on as a second half substitute, earned a valuable point for UTS Olympic when he engineered a penalty which enabled his team to draw 1-1 with Sydney United at Belmore Sports Ground.

United stayed well ahead in the Ericsson Cup competition with Manfred Schaefer's Marconi Stallions moving into second place, one point ahead of the Brisbane Strikers with another point to South Melbourne Lakers and Adelaide City.

But the battle continues for the sixth playoff place with six teams still in the running.

Melbourne Knights helped their playoff chances with a 1-0 win over Brisbane, Marconi dumped Adelaide City 3-1, Collingwood upset Perth Glory 2-0, South Melbourne beat Wollongong 3-0 and West Adelaide stopped Gippsland Falcons 3-2.

Mitchell (below), the Olympic player-coach, came on in the 68th minute and had an immediate effect on the team's attack.

Two minutes from fulltime he burst into the Pumas penalty area but was pulled down by defender Robert Enes and striker Kris Trajanovski converted the spot kick.

United had taken the lead in the 26th minute after a brilliant series of moves resulted in Ante Milicic beating Olympic goalkeeper Anthony Franken.

Franken made a number of outstanding saves in the opening minutes of the second half where he denied four hot shots at goal by the United strikers.

"We had three players missing from our defence and I had to select attackers to do their work and they did it well but I'm disappointed we didn't hold them out," said United coach Branko Culina.

Sydney United, who remain on target for their first ever minor premiership, sorely missed the services at the back through suspension of the vastly experienced Mark Babic and Paul Bilokapic.

Local hero Adrian Cervinski tucked a penalty away on the stroke of half-time to give the Melbourne Knights a fighting chance after downing Brisbane at Kardinia Park.

It was a night of disaster for the Strikers, as midfielder Kasey Wehrman was stretchered from the ground with a fractured cheekbone and will be out for the rest of the season.

In addition, striker Frank Farina is suspended this week after receiving another yellow card when referee Eddie Lennie rejected his penalty appeal after a tussle with Ransford Banini.

The Knights switched their home fixture to the home ground of the Geelong AFL club to broaden their support base and move away from the Croatian-dominated crowd they attract at Sunshine in Melbourne's outer west.

The Strikers started the game in control until injury time in the first term when Cervinski pressured Craig Williams on the edge of the box, the defender handled and the forward rushed to take the spot kick.

Brisbane faded badly after the break while utility Ransford Banini had his best match of the season marshalling the Knights' defence.

KIMON TALIADOROS GOES DOWN UNDER A CHALLENGE DEOM VELIMIR KUPRESAK

ROD BROWN

"Former Olyroo midfielder Ross Aloisi sealed victory for the Sharks in the second half when he netted his third goal in the past two home games"

The financially troubled Collingwood Warriors continued their recent good form with victory over the Perth Glory at Perth Oval.

Collingwood won without suspended captain Kimon Taliadoros, who scored two goals last week against West Adelaide.

The Warriors opened the scoring in the 13th minute when Con Boutsianis scored from a free kick while Peter DiIorio scored his side's second goal in the 61st minute to stifle any Perth revival.

West Adelaide raced to a 2-0 lead after 20 minutes but were reeled back by the Falcons for a 2-2 scoreline at halftime.

Former Olyroo midfielder Ross Aloisi sealed victory for the Sharks in the second half when he netted his third goal in the past two home games.

Goals to Steve Panopoulos, New Zealand international Vaughn Coveny and Socceroo Warren Spink saw the Lakers of South Melbourne crush an injury-riddled Wollongong Wolves at Bob Jane Stadium.

Ericsson Cup Draw Round 20

Friday: Newcastle Breakers v South Melbourne

Wollongong Wolves v Melbourne Knights

Saturday: Gippsland Falcons v Perth Glory

Brisbane Strikers v Marconi

Sunday: Collingwood Warriors v Canberra Cosmos

Sydney United v West Adelaide

Adelaide City v UTS Olympic

LEADING GOALSCORERS

David Zdrilic (Sydney United)	15
Ante Milicic (Sydney United)	13
Bobby Despotovski (Perth Glory)	11
Rodney Brown (Brisbane Strikers)	9
Norman Tome (UTS Olympic)	9
Jimmy Tsekenis (West Adelaide)	9
Frank Farina (Brisbane Strikers)	8
Ice Kutlesovski (Melb Knights)	8
Adrian Cervinski (Melb Knights)	7
Andrew Harper (Marconi)	7

ScoreBoard

RESULTS FROM ROUND 18 - Ericsson Cup

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 (S Panopoulos 15m pen V Coveny 22m W Spink 85m) d WOLLONGONG CITY 0 at Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne. Referee: E Brazzale. Crowd: Abt 5000.
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 3 (J Gibson own goal 4m B Maloney 19m S Babic 71m) d ADELAIDE CITY 1 (B Hassell 38m) at Marconi Stadium. Referee: B Hugo. Crowd: 4,996.
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 (A Cervinski 45m) d BRISBANE STRIKERS 0 at Kardinia Park, Geelong. Referee: E Lennie. Crowd: 4200.
COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS 2 (C Boutsianis 13m P Dilorio 61m) d PERTH GLORY 0 at Perth Oval. Referee: B Pannella. Crowd: 10,964.
UTS OLYMPIC 1 (K Trajanovski 88m pen) drew with SYDNEY UNITED 1 (A Milicic 26m) at Belmore Sports Ground. Referee: M Shields. Crowd: 7,924.
WEST ADELAIDE 3 (A Borghetto 9m P Cardozo 20m R Aloisi 48m) d GIPPSLAND FALCONS 2 (M Stergiopoulos 29m 37m) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Referee: G Connolly. Crowd: Approx 3,400.

ERICSSON CUP ROUND 18

TEAM	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sydney Utd	12	4	3	48	25	40
Marconi	10	3	6	31	24	33
Brisbane	10	2	7	38	28	32
Sth Melb	9	4	6	26	17	~~31~~ 34
Adelaide C	8	7	4	24	16	31
W Adelaide	9	2	8	30	32	30
Perth	8	3	8	35	32	~~27~~ 28
Wollongong	6	7	6	25	29	~~25~~ 28
UTS Olympic	6	6	7	26	30	24
Newcastle	5	8	6	30	30	23
Melb Knights	6	5	8	22	22	23
Collingwood	5	7	7	20	31	22
Gippsland	3	5	11	19	35	~~14~~ 15
Canberra	2	5	12	20	41	11

SUPER LEAGUE PRE-SEASON CUP ROUND 4 - RESULTS

SOUTHERN GROUP - Leichhardt Tigers 1 (Williams 65m) St. George Saints 1 (Savoca 44m) Sutherland Sharks 1 (Lerond 17m) Macarthur Rams 1 (Penna 37m) Bankstown City Lions 3 (Velevski 38m Josevski 45m Zafirov 79m) Canterbury Marrickville 2 (Christoforidis 7m Kategiannis 70m)

NORTHERN GROUP - Central Coast 2 (Byrn 12m Brown 63m) Sydney United 0. Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 (Mancino 44m) Adamstown Rosebud 0. Blacktown City Demons 2 (De Jesus 49m Cleary 57m) Parramatta Eagles 2 (Karavatakis 1m Petrovski 40m)

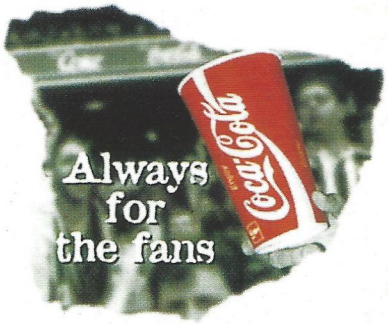
1ST DIVISION ROUND 2

FIRST GRADE - Round 4 - Hills United 5 Rockdale City Suns 1, Illawarra Lions 1 Eastern Suburbs 2, Warringah Dolphins 4 Greystanes 2, Mt Pritchard 1 Fairfield Bulls 0, Stanmore Hawks 0 Bathurst '75 1, West Wanderers 1 Penrith Panthers 4, Hurstville City Minotaurs 2 Auburn United 1, Ryde City 1 Belmore Hercules 0.
Round 5 - Rockdale City Suns 1 Mt Pritchard 1, Illawarra Lions 1 Hills United 2, Warringah Dolphins 0 Eastern Suburbs 1, Fairfield Bulls 0 Stanmore Hawks 7, Bathurst ë75 4 West Wanderers 0, Ryde City 6 Auburn United 0, Greystanes 1 Belmore Hercules 6.

UNDER 21'S - Round 4 - Hills United 7 Rockdale City Suns 0, Illawarra Lions 7 Eastern Suburbs 0, Warringah Dolphins 2 Greystanes 3, Mt Pritchard 4 Fairfield Bulls 2, Stanmore Hawks 2 Bathurst ë75 2, West Wanderers 4 Penrith Panthers 1, Hurstville City Minotaurs 7 Auburn United 0, Ryde City 1 Belmore Hercules 2.
Round 5 - Rockdale City Suns 0 Mt Pritchard 5, Illawarra Lions 1 Hills United 8, Warringah Dolphins 1 Eastern Suburbs 4, Fairfield Bulls 0 Stanmore Hawks 3, Bathurst '75 0 West Wanderers 0, Penrith Panthers 1 Hurstville City Minotaurs 4, Ryde City 1 Auburn United 3, Greystanes 0 Belmore Hercules 1

UNDER 18'S - Round 4 - Hills United 8 Rockdale City Suns 0, Illawarra Lions 0 Eastern Suburbs 5, Warringah Dolphins 1 Greystanes 2, Mt Pritchard 1 Fairfield Bulls 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 Bathurst ë75 1, West Wanderers 2 Penrith Panthers 0, Hurstville City Minotaurs 1 Auburn United 3, Ryde City 2 Belmore Hercules 1.
Round 5 - Rockdale City Suns 2 Mt Pritchard 3, Illawarra Lions 2 Hills United 5, Warringah Dolphins 2 Eastern Suburbs 3, Fairfield Bulls 3 Stanmore Hawks 4, Bathurst '75 4 West Wanderers 2, Penrith Panthers 2 Hurstville City Minotaurs 1, Ryde City 3 Auburn United 1, Greystanes 3 Belmore Hercules 1.

Remember when that guy was lining up a PENALTY KICK, and you were thinking, MISS, MISS,



MISS? And then hekickedand he Missed.

So you start thinking "maybe that happened because of ME.

Maybe if I think hard enough, CHEER, no SCREAM HARD enough, this game will be ours."

Well, we didn't want to be the ones to break this to you, but see that guy sitting opposite you? Yeah, the one holding the 'Coke', cheering for the other side. Guess what? He's thinking the SAME THING you are.

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